Labour Force Engaged in Agricultural Sector

1019. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) What is the estimated labour force engaged in agricultural sector;

(b) the number of them who are land owners and those who are landless;

(c) the number of man-hours required for agricultural work in the country and the total man-hours available from them; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to provide work to the under-employed rural labour force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per census the work force in the Agriculture Sector has been divided into cultivators and Agricultural Labourers who were estimated to be 111 million and 75 million respectively (excluding Jammu & Kashmir) in 1991.

As regards man hours required for agricultural work and total man hours available from them, based on 43rd round of NSSO (1987-88) it is observed that 20.6% of those employed in agriculture by usual principal status reported availability for additional/alternate work.

(d) Programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) are being implemented by the Government with a view to provide employment to unemployed or under-employed rural poor. While IRDP is a self employment programme, the JRY aims at providing wage employment. The target group in both these programmes is people living below poverty line in rural areas. A new scheme known as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has also been started from October, 1993 which aims at providing 100 days of unskilled manual work to rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it. The scheme is being implemented in 1752 identified backward blocks of 257 districts which are situated in the drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and hilly areas in which currecently Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) is in operation. The works under the scheme are to be taken up during the lean agricultural season when there is reduced availability of rural unskilled wage employment in the farming sector.

Dissemination of Information on Wastelands Development

1020. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MAHINDRA PRASAD:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme for promotion and criticial support services under which a network is to be established for dissemination of information regarding wastelands development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of wastelands so far identified for reclamation under Wastelands Development Schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) A Central Sector Scheme entitled "Promotional and Critical Support Services" is under finalisation in consultation with the Planning Commission and other Ministries/Departments concerned. The scheme envisages setting up of a Central 'Data-Base' at the Head office of the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) in New Delhi, and four Regional Promotional Centres, where data on non-forest wastelands and other relevant information can be made available to those interested in taking up wastelands development projects including corporate bodies and private entrepreneurs. The scheme also envisages 'escort service' to be provided.

(c) No detailed surveys have yet been conducted for the identification of wastelands, but according to one estimate out of the country's landmass of 329 million hectares, 129.50 million hectares are wastelands. The Statewise distribution is given in the Annexure.

The Eighth Five Year Plan has yet to be finalised. However, durng the first two years of the Eighth Plan it is estimated that about 83,000 ha are likely to be covered under various reclamation schemes.

Estimate of Wastelands

(million hectares)

State/UT	Non-Forest Degraded Area	Forest Degraded Area	Total
Andhra Pradesh	7.682	3.734	11.416
Assam	0.935	0.795	1.730
Bihar	3.896	1.562	5.458
Gujarat	7.153	0.683	7.836
Haryana	2.404	0.074	2.478
Himachal Pradesh	1.424	0.534	1.958
Jammu & Kashmir	0.531	1.034	1.565
Karnataka	7.122	2.043	9.165
Kerala	1.053	0.226	1.279
Madhya Pradesh	12.947	7.195	20.142
Maharashtra	11.560	2.841	14.401
Manipur	0.014	1.424	1.438
Meghalaya	0.815	1.103	1.918
Nagaland	0.508	0.878	1.386
Orissa	3.157	3.227	6.384
Punjab	1.151	0.079	1.230
Rajasthan	18.001	1.933	19.934
Sikkim	0.131	0.150	0.281
Tamil Nadu	3.392	1.009	4.401
Tripura	0.108	0.865	0.973
Uttar Pradesh	6.635	1.426	8.061
West Bengal	2.177	0.359	2.536
UTs	0.889	2.715	3.604
TOTAL	93.685	35.889	129.574